

Application No. 09/787,953
Response dated January 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 23, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Figs. 5 and 6, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 5 and 6. In Figure 6, previously omitted "Related Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-4 have been amended, and claims 5-8 have been added.

Drawings

Fig.6 was objected to because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicants correct Fig. 6 to indicate that it is "Related Art."

Specification

The title of the invention was objected to since it is not descriptive. Applicants correct the title into "CRT Funnel with Positioning Reference Portions."

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicants file an Information Disclosure Statement listing "JP54-131864" on PTO-1449. Please consider the reference.

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Meanwhile, Applicants have received the returned PTO-1449 as attached, but the examiner's signature is not found as to the reference "US Patent 6,427,490." Please consider this reference.

Claim Rejections – 35USC§112

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35USC§112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Office Action, paragraphs 5-6.

Claims 2 and 4 are amended to incorporate a recitation of "of the funnel." Claim 3 is also amended for consistence. Basis of the amendment is found at page 2, line 6, and page 8, lines 25-26. By reference to these pages, one skilled in the art would easily know what is meant by "axial."

Claim Rejections – 35 USC§102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC§102 as being anticipated by Masahiro (JP8-111189).

Applicants traverse this rejection because Masahiro does not disclose "an upper end edge of the positioning reference portion formed at a distance from the maximum profile line toward the

narrow open end.”

As disclosed at paragraph [0020] of Masahiro, Fig. 3 shows a cross section view of the sealing end portion 11 of the funnel 10 and the sealing end portion 21 of the panel 20. As shown in Fig.3, the upper end edge of the positioning reference portion 13 of Masahiro corresponds to the maximum profile line of the funnel 10. As shown in Masahiro, conventional funnels have an upper end edge of the positioning reference portion located on the maximum profile line of the funnel. The reason of this relationship is discussed at page 2, line 19 to page 3, line 21, and Figs. 6-8 of the present application.

Usually, the maximum profile line is formed at the portion where the shell mold 11 meets with the bottom mold 10, as shown in Fig.8 of the present application. As shown in Fig. 8, a conventional funnel has an upper end edge 7a of the positioning reference portion located on the maximum profile line 4. If the upper end edge 7a of the positioning reference portion is not located on the maximum profile line 4 and if biased toward the narrow open end, the solidified funnel 1 cannot be removed from the bottom mold 10. That's why the conventional funnel has the positioning reference portion having the upper end edge 7a located on the maximum profile line 4 of the funnel, as shown in Fig.8 of the present application.

Therefore, in the disclosure of Masahiro, the upper end edge of the positioning reference

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portion 13 corresponds to the maximum profile line of the funnel 10, as shown in Fig.3. While Fig.4 of Masahiro is unclear and difficult to determine where the end edge of the positioning reference portion and the maximum profile line are there, it should be understood from the knowledge of the art in removing the shell mold 11 that Masahiro disclose a funnel having an upper end edge of the positioning reference portion located on the maximum profile line of the funnel. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35USC§103

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Masahiko.

Since Masahiro does not disclose the positioning reference portion recited in claim 1, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Original claim 4 is rewritten into claims 4 and 5 to overcome the rejections under 35USC§112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

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New Claims 6-8

Claim 6-8 are added. The basis of the amendment in claim 6 is found at original claim 1. Claim 6 is distinct from Masahiro by the same reason discussed above. The basis of the amendment in claim 7 is found at page 9, lines 21 to 24, and Fig.2. Claim 7 incorporates a new recitation, "wherein the position reference portion is formed not to project its upper end edge from the outer wall surface." Masahiko does not disclose or suggest the upper end edge being not projected from the outer wall surface. The amendment in claim 8 is found at original claim 4.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-8, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

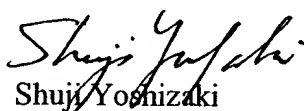
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. The limited recognition of the agent is attached.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Shuji Yoshizaki
Patent Agent
Limited Recognition

Attachments: Limited Recognition
PTO-1449
Replacement Sheet
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